

WHICKHAM
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report

OF THE
Medical Officer of Health,
FOR THE
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER, 1939.

SWALWELL,
A. A. FLETCHER & SON, GENERAL PRINTERS, FOUNDRY LANE,
1941.



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Health Department,
Council Offices.
Whickham.

To the Chairman and Members
of the Whickham U.D.C.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the Annual Report for the year 1939, this of course, includes the period from January 1st to September 30th, during which time Dr. J. W. H. Morrison was acting as part-time Medical Officer of Health,

The report is somewhat abbreviated in certain sections, due to the present emergency and in accordance with Ministry of Health suggestions.

Statistical Tables are appended including that of the Registrar General.

My thanks are due to the Surveyor; Rating Department; Nursing Association; and to the Manager of the Labour Exchange for information supplied and included in this report. My sincere appreciation is also due to the Staff of the Health Department for their loyal co-operation in matters pertaining to the Public Health Welfare of the District and to the completion of this report.

I would also indicate my pleasure in commencing duties as Medical Officer of Health to the three Urban Districts of Blaydon, Ryton and Whickham, as from 1st October, 1939.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

T. MORRISON CLAYTON,

M.B., B.S., B.HY., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Officers of the Authority.

Acting Medical Officer of Health (Part-time)—

J. W. H. MORRISON, M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.

(Resigned 30th September, 1939).

Medical Officer of Health (Whole-time)—

T. MORRISON CLAYTON, M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.,

(Commenced 1st October, 1939).

Chief Sanitary Inspector—

G. GRAHAM DON, C.R.S.A.(Scot.), M.S.I.A.

Senior Sanitary Inspector—

GEO. E. HOPPER, Cert.R.S.I.

Medical Officer's Annual Report.

Statistics.

- 1—Area - in acres - 6,229.
- 2—Population - 1931 Census - 20,750.
The Registrar General's estimate of population for mid-1939 is as follows:-
 - (a) For the calculation of birth rates ... 22,550.
 - (b) For the calculation of death rates and incidence of notifiable disease ... 22,290.
- 3—Number of inhabited houses at end of 1936, according to the rate book - 6,200.
- 4—Rateable Value - December, 1939 - £138.793.
- 5—Sum represented by a 1d. Rate - £579.

Social Conditions and Physical Features of the Area.

The Wickham Urban District is situated in the North-West of Durham County and consists of four wards, namely: Dunston, Swalwell, Wickham and Marley Hill. The district is bounded to the north by the River Tyne, to the west by the River Derwent, to the east by the County Borough of Gateshead and the Chester-le-Street Rural District, and to the south by the Stanley Urban District.

The District is divided into four Wards.

- 1—DUNSTON. This Ward represents the largest proportion of the population of the district, and, while it was at one time chiefly industrial, it is becoming more residential, due to the amount of building which has been undertaken in the last year. The Industries include Heavy Industries, Flour Mills, Soap Works, Shipping, and the Power Station.
- 2—SWALWELL. This Ward is largely industrial, chiefly Coal mining, Brickworks and Ironworks.

3—WHICKHAM (including Sunnyside) This Ward is mainly rural, and though residential for the greater part, is partly industrial, including Coal mining.

4—MARLEY HILL. This Ward is very scattered, and essentially rural. Coal mining is the chief industry.

There has been no alteration in the boundaries of the Urban District during 1939.

Unemployment.

Unemployment has shown a decrease, due no doubt, to the need for increased production in heavy industry consequent upon the war.

I append figures supplied by Mr. MacDonald, of the Dunston Labour Exchange, showing the position in preceding years.

1934	—	1387.	1937	—	650.
1935	—	1301.	1938	—	800.
1936	—	1001.	1939	—	517.

Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year.

Births.

The total number of births registered during 1939 was 398, of which 184 were male and 214 female, and of the above total 17 were illegitimate. The natural increase of the population of the area (i.e. excess of births over deaths) was 133. Of 15 still births registered, all were legitimate. For comparative purposes, I append the 1938 figures:-

No. of live births	...	373.
No. of illegitimate births		14.
No. of still births	...	18.

The birth rate for the year was 17·65 (16·55 for 1938). This compares very favourably with the birth rate for England

and Wales at 15·00, and for the Administrative County of Durham at 16·6, and incidentally is the highest recorded since 1931.

Infant Mortality.

16 infantile deaths were recorded (8 male and 8 female) giving an infantile mortality rate of 40·2.

This compares very favourably with the rate for England and Wales at 50, and for the Administrative County of Durham at 63, and is the lowest rate ever recorded in this area.

Maternal Mortality.

One maternal death was recorded during the year, giving a maternal mortality rate of 2·42 per 1000 live and still births.

The figure for 1938 was 10·22.

The figure for England and Wales is 2·82. (England and Wales, 1938 - 5·94)

The figure for Durham County, 1939, was 4·99 (Durham County, 1938 - 5·39). It will be seen from the above figures that there has been an amazing reduction not only in Whickham, but also throughout the country, and this would appear to be due largely to the very beneficial results obtained from the use of new drugs of the sulphonilimide group used in the treatment of puerperal cases. and coupled with efficient nursing.

Deaths.

The total number of deaths during 1939 was 265, of which 156 were male and 109 female, giving an annual death rate of 11·89 per 1000 population. (Comparative death rate 13·67 per 1000 population) The 1938 death rate was 11·36.

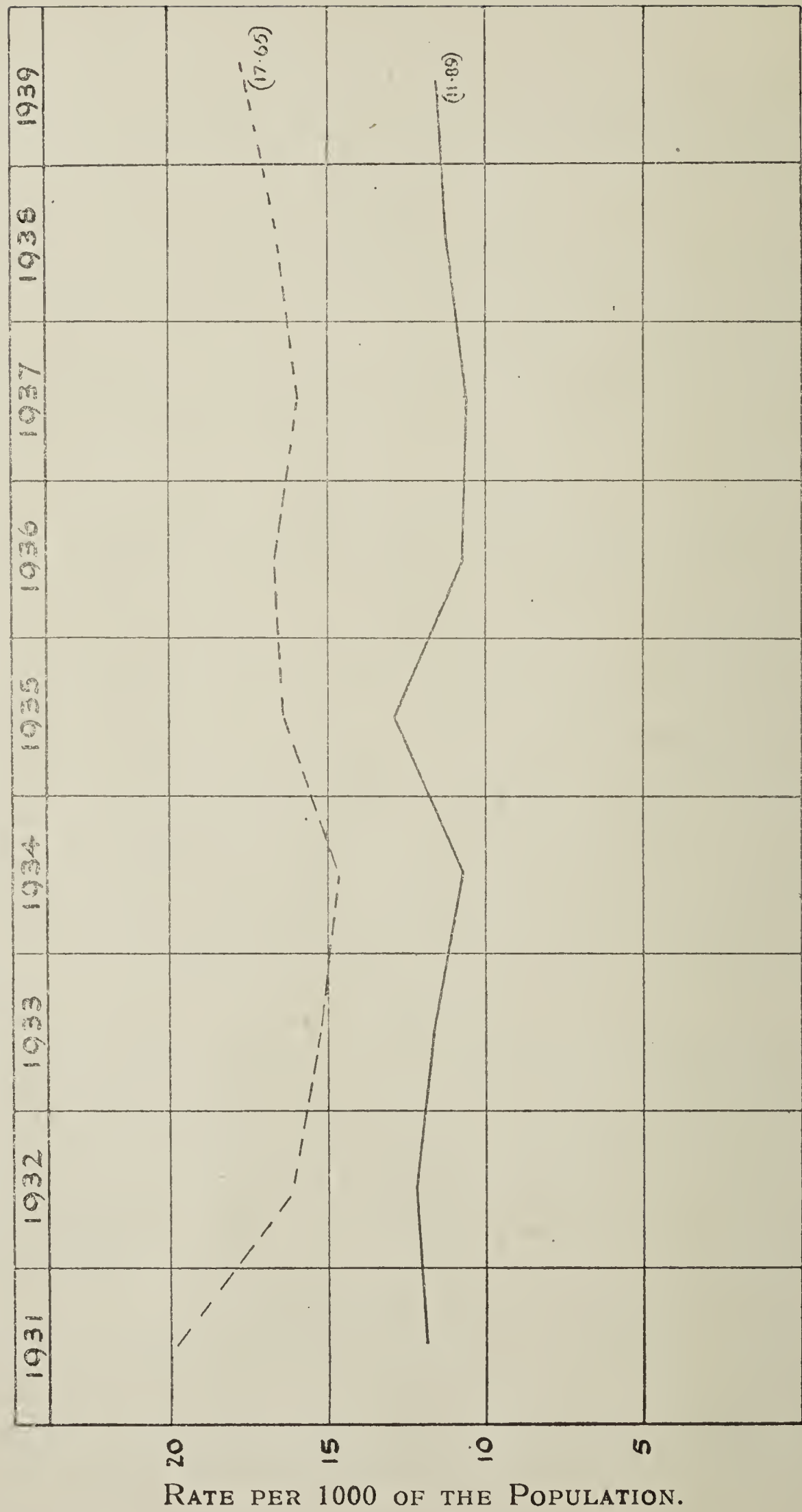
Death rate for England and Wales	12·1 per 1000 population
Death rate for Durham County	12·0 per 1000 population

The chief causes of death were as follows:-

Heart Disease 59, Other Circulatory Diseases 50,
Cancer 32.

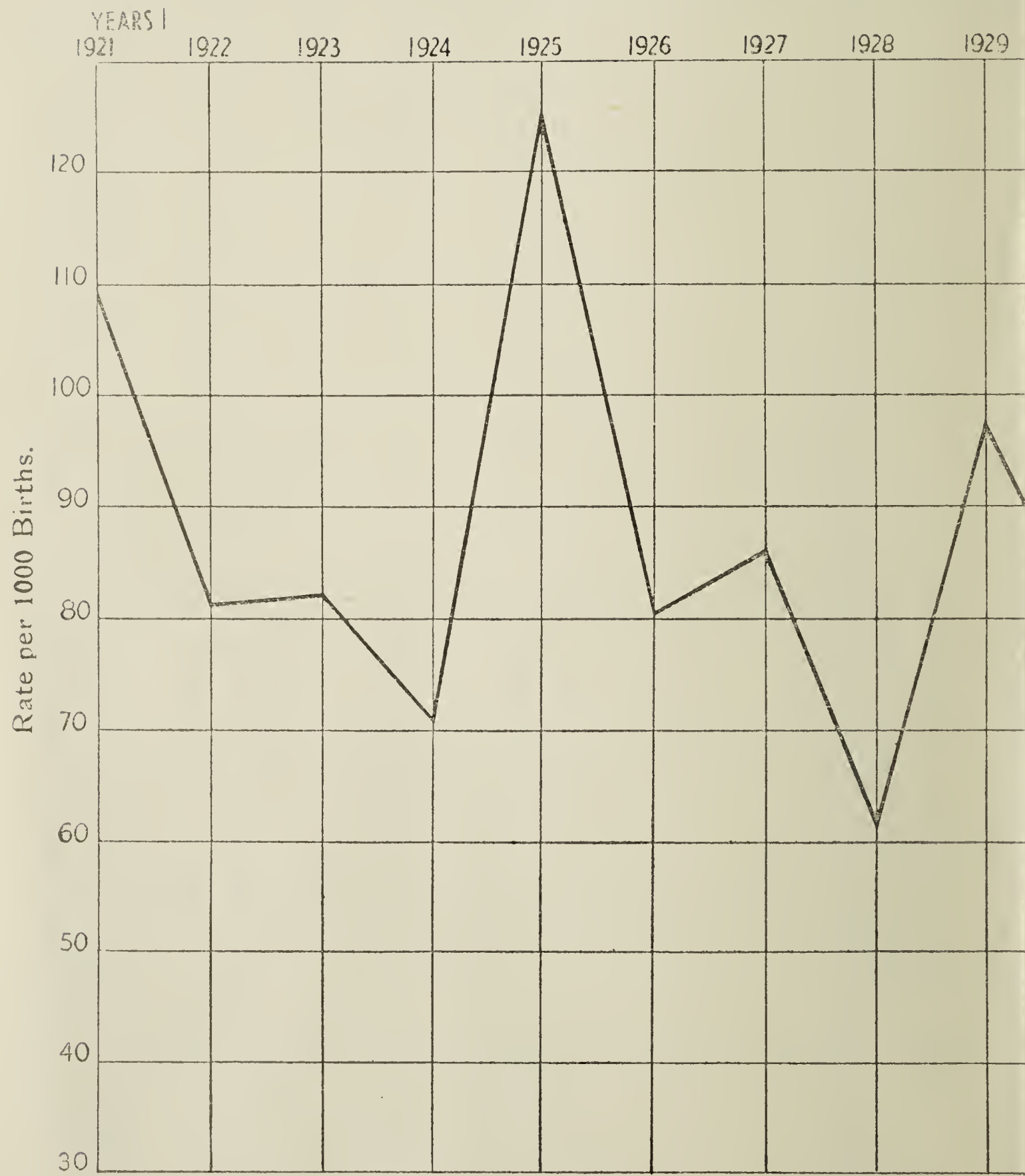
The graph on page 8 shows the birth and death rates from 1931 to 1939.

Graph shewing Birth and Death Rates in the Whickham Area for the 9 years, 1931 - 1939.



--- Births per 1000 of the Population.
— Deaths per 1000 of the Population.

Graph shewing the Infantile Mortali



Rate in the Whickham Area since 1921.

8a.



A graph showing the infantile mortality rate in the Whickham area for the 18 years period 1921 - 1939 is given on page 8a.

**THE REGISTRAR GENERAL'S SHORT LIST OF CAUSES OF
DEATH DURING 1939.**

CAUSES OF DEATH					MALES	FEMALES
1	Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	...	...	...	—	—
2	Measles	...	...	...	—	—
3	Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	—	1
4	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	—	—
5	Diphtheria	...	...	...	2	2
6	Influenza	...	...	...	3	4
7	Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	—	—
8	Cerebro Spinal Fever	...	...	...	—	—
9	Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...	...	...	7	6
10	Other Tuberculous diseases	...	...	...	3	—
11	Syphilis	...	...	...	1	—
12	General paralysis of the insane, tabes dorsalis	...	...	...	—	—
13	Cancer, malignant disease	...	...	...	21	11
14	Diabetes	...	...	...	1	3
15	Cerebral Hæmorrhage, &c.	...	...	...	8	4
16	Heart disease	...	...	...	37	22
17	Aneurysm	...	...	...	1	—
18	Other circulatory diseases	...	...	...	29	21
19	Bronchitis	...	...	...	3	2
20	Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	5	6
21	Other Respiratory diseases	...	...	...	2	—
22	Peptic Ulcer	...	...	...	1	—
23	Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years)	...	...	...	—	—
24	Appendicitis	...	...	...	—	—
25	Cirrhosis of Liver	...	...	...	—	—
26	Other diseases of Liver, etc.	...	...	...	—	3
27	Other digestive diseases	...	...	...	3	1
28	Acute and chronic nephritis	...	...	...	4	1
29	Puerperal sepsis	...	...	...	—	—
30	Other puerperal causes	...	...	...	—	1
31	Congenital debility, premature birth and malformations, etc.	...	...	...	6	1
32	Senility	...	...	...	1	6
33	Suicide	...	...	...	3	—
34	Other violence	...	...	...	7	—
35	Other defined diseases	...	...	...	7	12
36	Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	...	...	1	2
					156	109

Total Number of Deaths - 265.

Laboratory Facilities.

All specimens for bacteriological examination are sent to the Public Health Department of King's College, with which the Durham County Council has an agreement.

The majority of such specimens are examined free of cost to both practitioners and patients.

234 specimens were examined during 1939.

Bacteriological Examinations from Whickham District, 1939.

ENTERIC FEVER.				DIPHTHERIA			TUBERCULOSIS		* MISCELL- ANEOUS			TOTALS		
Serological Examinations.														
Positive		Negative	Incon- clusive											
Typh- osus	Para- typh- osus B.													
—	—	4	—	46	125	3	4	49	1	2	-	51	180	3

P - Positive.

N - Negative.

I - Inconclusive.

*This section is composed of examinations receiving the special approval of the County Medical Officer for Cerebro-spinal Fluid, Haemolytic Streptococci, Faeces Virulence, Tubercle Urine, Brucella Abortus and Gaertner and Diphtheria culture.

Ambulance Facilities.

The Council provides an ambulance for the conveyance of non-infectious cases.

The Conjoint Hospital Committee for Blaydon, Ryton and Whickham provides an ambulance for the transport of infectious cases.

Nursing in the Home.

District nursing throughout the Whickham area is carried on most efficiently by Queen's Nurses appointed by the Whickham & District Nursing Association, a body maintained by voluntary effort. Subscriptions are made by the majority of workmen, who allow deductions from their wages. Generous donations are given by the many well-wishers in the district.

RECORD OF NURSING WORK.

	Dunston	Whickham	Swalwell	Marley Hill and Sunnyside	Total
On books, April 1st, 1938	17	18	17	14	66
New Cases 	145	135	118	130	528
Visits 	3195	2707	2831	2526	11259
Casual Visits 	19	15	4	9	47
Convalescent 	141	146	88	100	475
Died 	8	11	15	13	47
On books, Mar. 31st, 1939	13	12	9	12	46

Treatment Centres and Clinics.

Facilities for the treatment of minor ailments in school children, together with Sun-ray, Maternity & Child Welfare, and dental treatment are made available by Durham County Council at various centres within the area.

Hospital Provision.

(a) Infectious Diseases.

The Conjoint Infectious Diseases Hospital at Norman's Riding, Winlaton, serves the needs of Whickham, Blaydon and Ryton areas.

In the event of Smallpox occurring in the district, the Joint Hospital Committee has made provision for such cases to be treated at Howdon Bank Hospital under the County Smallpox Scheme,

(b) Tuberculosis.

Durham County Council has provided various sanatoria for the treatment of Tuberculous cases throughout the County.

The approximate number of beds available for this purpose is 600. A Tuberculosis Dispensary is situated at Whickham.

(c) General,

The Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle, receives the greater proportion of Medical and Surgical cases from the

Whickham district, and also provides a convalescent home for both males and females, which is situated on the western boundary of the Ryton Urban District; 100 beds are available. Provision for treatment of Surgical cases is also available at the Whickham & District War Memorial Cottage Hospital (30 beds are available).

(d) Midwifery and Gynaecology.

Of those midwifery and gynaecological cases sent to hospital, most find their way to the Princess Mary Maternity Hospital and to the Gynaecological Department of the Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle.

A private maternity home is situated in Whickham. (The Chalet)

(e) Venereal Disease.

The County Council has an arrangement whereby such cases are treated at the Venereal Diseases Clinic, City Hospital, Westgate Road, Newcastle.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

1—Water.

There were no extensions to the public water supply during 1939. The supply is adequate and of good quality.

2—Rivers and Streams.

The work of Rivers Pollution prevention has been carried out in conjunction with the County Health Inspector. and improvement was effected in several cases.

3—Closet Accommodation.

At the end of 1939 there were 6,381 water-closets and 187 ash-closets in the area. The following table shows the number of water-closets and ash-closets in the area during the past nine years.

Years	Water Closets.	Ash Closets
1931	4414	239
1932	4561	239
1933	4765	178
1934	5142	168
1935	5350	168
1936	5883	355
1937	6221	353
1938	6370	310
1939	6381	187

The increase in 1936 was due to the boundary extension.

A conversion scheme affecting 112 premises in the Sunnyside area was carried out during the year. The remaining ash-closets are scattered throughout the outlying parts of the area and do not readily lend themselves to conversion.

4—Public Cleansing.

The following information relating to Public Cleansing has been supplied to me by the Council's Engineer and Surveyor:-

Scavenging of Roads and Streets.

The orderly truck system has been instituted with very satisfactory results for the whole area. The streets of the district are now swept three times per week, against once per week previously.

Refuse Collection,

100% of this service is executed by mechanical vehicles. Collection takes place once per week, and more often in the case of business premises and butchering shops where required.

The number of tons collected per annum is 10,176, and the number of houses and other premises served is 6,000. The weight per 1,000 population per day is 27 cwts., and the method of disposal is by means of tipping.

5—Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

I have received the following report from Mr. Don, Chief Sanitary Officer:-

SUMMARY of Work done in the Sanitary Inspector's Department during the year 1939 in the URBAN DISTRICT of WHICKHAM.

1. PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.				Number of Informal written notices by Inspector	Number of Formal Notices by order of Authority	Number of Nuisances abated after Notice	General Remarks
Dwelling-houses and Schools.	{	Foul Conditions	...	14		14	
		Structural Defects	...	201		182	
		Overcrowding	...				
Lodging-houses		...	...		
Dairies and Milkshops		...	...	3		3	
Cowsheds		...	...	11		11	
Bakehouses		...	...	1		1	
Slaughter-houses		...	...	6		6	
Ashpits and Privies		...	...	7		7	
Deposits of Refuse and Manure		...	...	4		4	
Waterclosets...		...	...	16		14	
Defective Yard Paving		...	...	27		26	
House Drainage	{	Defective Traps	...	6		6	
		No disconnection from sewers	...	1		1	
		Other Faults	...	9		9	
Water Supply		...	...	36		36	
Pigsties		...	...		
Animals-Improperly Kept		...	...	1		1	
Offensive Trades		...	...		
Smoke Nuisances		...	...	1		1	
Other Nuisances		...	...	23		23	
TOTALS				367		345	

FACTORY ACT, 1937.

1—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provision as to health.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.

Premises.	NUMBER OF		
	Inspections	Written Notices.	Occupiers Prosecuted
FACTORIES with mechanical power	21	5	—
FACTORIES without mechanical power	17	3	—
*OTHER PREMISES under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction but not including outworkers' premises)	—	—	—
*Electrical Stations should be reckoned as factories. TOTAL ...	38	8	—

2—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars.	Number of Defects			Number of defects in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted
	Found.	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness (s. 1)	6	6		
Overcrowding (s. 2)	—	—		
Unreasonable temperature (s. 3)	—	—		
Inadequate ventilation (s. 4)	—	—		
Ineffective drainage of floors (s. 6)... ..	—	—		
Sanitary Conveniences (s. 7) { insufficient	1	1		
{ unsuitable or defective	8	8		
{ not separate for sexes	—	—		
Other offences	—	—		
(Not including offences relating to Home Work or offences under the sections mentioned in the schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories & Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921, and re-enacted in the Third Schedule to the Factories Act, 1937)				
Total ...	15	15		

OUTWORK IN UNWHOLESOME PREMISES,

(Section 108 of Act of 1901; Section III of Act of 1937)

NATURE OF WORK.	Instances	Notices served.	Prosecutions
Wearing Apparel—			
Making, etc., ...			
Cleaning and washing ...			
Household linen ...			
Lace, lace curtains and nets ...			
Curtains and furniture hangings ...			
Furniture and upholstery ...			
Electro-plate ...			
File making ...			
Brass and brass articles ...			
Fur pulling ...			
Cables and chains ...			
Anchors and Grapnels ...			
Cart gear ...			
Locks, latches and keys ...			
Umbrellas, &c. ...			
Artificial flowers ...			
Nets, other than wire nets ...	nil.	nil.	nil.
Tents ...			
Sacks ...			
Racquet and tennis balls ...			
Paper, etc., boxes, paper bags ...			
Brush making ...			
Pea picking ...			
Feather sorting ...			
Carding, &c., of buttons, &c. ...			
Stuffed toys ...			
Basket making ...			
Chocolates and sweetmeats ...			
Cosaques, Christmas crackers, Christmas stockings, etc. ...			
Textile weaving ...			
Lamp Shades ...			
Total ...	nil.	nil.	nil.

Water Courses.

One water course was found to be obstructed, and notice was served on the owner and the obstruction was removed and the water course cleansed.

Shops Act, 1934.

Two cases of defective sanitary accommodation were investigated during the year. These matters were taken up with the people concerned and completed informally.

Smoke Abatement.

No smoke observations were taken during 1939.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are no Swimming Baths or Pools in the area,

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

The following houses were found to be infested in varying degrees:-

Council Houses	...	16,
Other Houses	...	6.

The method of eradication is by spraying with "Zaldecide", an insecticide manufactured by Messrs Newton Chambers & Co. A second spraying is done after a lapse of 10 - 14 days, in order to kill any bugs which may have hatched since the initial spraying.

This method is attended with a reasonable degree of success, depending largely on the willingness of the tenant to co-operate in this work.

Disinfestation is carried out by a servant of the Council, under direction of this department.

Schools.

No Public Elementary School was closed during 1939 to prevent the spread of infectious disease.

HOUSING.

The war has interrupted your housing programme. There still remain in this area a fair number of houses which could, with advantage, be included in future Clearance Orders, but which must now await the conclusion of hostilities.

The shortage of working class houses will, of course, become more acute the longer the war lasts, and competition for Council houses grows daily. There is a very definite need for more aged persons' bungalows in the area. In a great many cases an old couple find their children married and themselves the tenants of a much larger house than they can afford at a period when the wage earner's capacity is declining. Your bungalows let at a rent varying with the rate, of between 3/6 and 4/- per week, permit such people to live in decency and comfort in the evening of their lives, and I would like to see more available when building is again possible.

The following table shows the houses allocated during the year:-

Ward.	Bungalow	2 bedrooms	3 bedrooms	4 bedrooms	Total
Whickham ...	1	7	5	—	13
Dunston	1	9	5	—	15
Marley Hill ...	—	2	7	2	11
Swalwell	—	4	5	—	9
Total ...	2	22	22	2	48

Housing Statistics for 1939.

1—Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year.

1— (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health or Housing Acts) 549

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... 1016

2— (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	...	...	...	...	...	16
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...					41
3— Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...			32
4— Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	401
2—Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices:-						
Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	---	...	...	...	...	346
3—Action under Statutory Powers during the year:-						
(a) <i>Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936—</i>						
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...					nil.
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:-						
(a) By Owners	...	...	...	...	...	nil.
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners						nil.
(b) <i>Proceedings under Public Health Acts—</i>						
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	...	...	...	16
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-						
(a) By Owners	...	...	...	...	...	16
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners						nil,

(c) *Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936—*

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	nil.
(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	nil.

(d) *Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936—*

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	...	...	...	nil.
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...	...	...	...	...	nil.

4—Housing Act, 1936 - Overcrowding.

*a—(1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	...	...	...	...	...	—
(2) Number of families dwelling therein	...	...	...	...	...	—
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein	...	...	...	...	...	—

b— Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	4
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

c—(1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	...	...	...	...	12
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases	...	...	...	...	...	59

d—Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority has taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	none
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	------

*Owing to the movement of population consequent upon the war, reliable figures are not available.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk Supply.

There are 21 milk producers in the area, of whom three hold licences to sell "Accredited" milk.

Premises in the area are mostly of a good standard, and in general, those which fall short of that standard, are rented by farmers who keep only a few cows, and in such cases the cost of reconstruction is prohibitive. Every effort is made by means of frequent visits to maintain a pure and wholesome milk supply. It is to be feared that the shortage of agricultural labour consequent upon the war may have a deleterious effect upon the milk supply.

During the year, 37 samples were submitted to King's College Laboratory, the results of which are appended on the next page.

METHYLENE BLUE AND COLIFORM TESTS.

Sample No.	Grade.	Methylene Blue	B. Coli.
1/39	Ordinary	Satisfactory	Present
2/39	Accredited	Satisfactory	Absent
3/39	Ordinary	Satisfactory	Absent
4/39	Ordinary	Satisfactory	Absent
5/39	Accredited	Satisfactory	Absent
6/39	Ordinary	Satisfactory	Absent
7/39	Ordinary	Satisfactory	Absent
8/59	Ordinary	Satisfactory	Absent
9/39	Ordinary	Satisfactory	Absent
10/39	Ordinary	Satisfactory	Absent
11/39	Ordinary	Satisfactory	Absent
12/39	Ordinary	Satisfactory	Absent
13/39	Ordinary	Satisfactory	Present
14/39	Ordinary	Failed	Absent
15/39	Ordinary	Failed	Absent
16/39	Ordinary	Satisfactory	Absent
17/39	Ordinary	Satisfactory	Absent
18/39	Ordinary	Failed	Present
19/39	Accredited	Satisfactory	Absent
20/39	Ordinary	Satisfactory	Absent
21/39	Ordinary	Satisfactory	Absent
22/39	Ordinary	Satisfactory	Absent
23/39	Ordinary	Satisfactory	Absent
24/39	Ordinary	Satisfactory	Absent
25/39	Ordinary	Satisfactory	Present
26/39	Accredited	Failed	Absent
27/39	Accredited	Failed	Present
28/39	Ordinary	Failed	Absent
29/39	Ordinary	Satisfactory	Absent
30/39	Ordinary	Satisfactory	Absent
31/39	Ordinary	Satisfactory	Absent
32/39	Accredited	Satisfactory	Absent
33/39	Ordinary	Failed	Absent
34/39	Ordinary	Satisfactory	Present
35/39	Ordinary	Satisfactory	Absent
36/39	Ordinary	Satisfactory	Absent
37/39	Ordinary	Satisfactory	Absent

Graded Milks,

There are three "Accredited" herds in the district, and it is pleasing to record that in these farms the standard of cleanliness is consistently high.

While the graded herds are only 14% of the total dairy herds in the area, they represent 24% of the cow population.

Efforts are being made to encourage other producers to attain a standard which will qualify them for a graded milk licence.

During the year under review, the following licences were issued by the Council under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936 :-

Two dealers' licences to sell Tuberculin-tested milk.

Two supplementary licences to sell Tuberculin-tested milk.

One dealer's licence to sell Pasteurised milk.

Two supplementary licences to sell Pasteurised milk.

There are no Pasteurising Plants in this area.

Milk and Dairies (Consolidation) Act. 1915.

During the year 20 samples of milk were submitted to King's College Laboratory for biological examination for the presence of tubercle; of these, 2 samples (or 10%) proved positive and were reported to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, through the County Medical Officer of Health.

In both cases the offending cow was identified and slaughtered under the provisions of the Tuberculosis Order,

Meat and Foods.

There are eight Licensed Slaughter-houses in the Urban Area, and in all of these, regular slaughtering is carried on.

Generally speaking, the quality of animals killed is high; bullocks and heifers predominating.

The following table shows the number of animals inspected in the various slaughter-houses:-

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

				Cattle, excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known) ...	...	...	...	483	27	21	1603	174
Number inspected ...	...	...	...	483	27	21	1603	174
All diseases except Tuberculosis—								
Whole carcases condemned ...	...	...	...	—	—	2	2	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	...	...	...	16	7	—	23	5
Percentage of the number inspected affect- ed with disease other than Tuberculosis ...				3.3	25.9	9.5	1.5	6.0
Tuberculosis only—								
Whole carcases condemned ...	...	...	...	2	1	—	—	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	...	...	...	27	6	—	—	.6
Percentage of the number inspected affect- ed with tuberculosis ...	...	...	...	6.0	25.9	—	—	4.0

Various Organs condemned as unfit for Human Consumption.

	Heads	Tongues	Lungs	Liver	Stomachs	Hearts	Spleens	Mesenteries	Intestines	Kidneys	Diaphragms
Tuberculosis—											
Bovines ...	3	3	16	12	4	4	3	8	8	2	2
Pigs ...	3	3	2	2	—	—	—	3	3	—	—
Inflammatory Disease—											
Bovines ...	—	—	3	4	—	1	—	3	12	1	—
Pigs ...	—	—	2	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Parasitic Disease—											
Bovines ...	—	—	5	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pigs ...	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sheep ...	—	—	14	23	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

During the year three new licences were granted under this Act, and 15 licences were renewed.

The Act has been applied to sheep by resolution of this Authority.

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious Diseases.

During 1939 there has been a marked all round decrease in the number of cases notified, namely 339, as compared with 1,008 for 1938. The latter figure includes 100 cases of Chicken-pox, which ceased to be notifiable in June, 1939. The decrease was in the main due to the comparatively small number of Scarlet Fever cases (90 to 26), Diphtheria cases (79 to 55), Chicken-pox cases (190 to 100), and Measles cases (394 to 94).

Enteric Fever.

No cases notified during 1939.

Smallpox.

No cases notified during 1939.

Diphtheria.

55 cases of Diphtheria were notified during the year, and 51 of these were removed to hospital, one of which died, giving a fatality rate of 1·96%.

Of 4 cases kept at home. 2 died, giving a fatality rate of 50%.

Scarlet Fever.

26 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified during the year, and of these 22 were removed to hospital and 4 were nursed at home. There were no deaths.

Of those cases of Scarlet Fever removed to hospital, 3 were found to have the Klebs Loeffler bacillus present on routine swabbing.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

Three cases were notified during the year, and 2 two of these were nursed at Norman's Riding Hospital. (1938 - nil,)

Cerebro Spinal Meningitis.

None notified. (1938 - nil,)

Erysipelas.

Twenty cases were notified during the year, as compared with 23 cases in 1938.

Puerperal Pyrexia.

Five cases were notified during the year, and one case proved fatal,

Measles and Whooping Cough Regulations, 1939.

These regulations came into force on October 23rd, 1939, and provide for the notification of all cases of Measles and Whooping Cough.

Measles was, of course, notifiable in Whickham prior to this Order. No case of Whooping Cough was notified during 1939.

Diphtheria - Artificial Immunisation.

Increasing emphasis is now being placed, both by the Ministry of Health and medical opinion throughout the country, upon the great importance of Diphtheria prophylaxis. There is increasing evidence to show that the case incidence and mortality rate is being greatly reduced in those communities where mass immunisation has been instituted.

I would suggest to the Council that they give this matter their serious consideration.

Pneumoccal Typing.

There are no local facilities for the typing of Pneumococci, although such facilities could no doubt be made available, should the necessity arise,

Measles Prophylaxis and Attenuation.

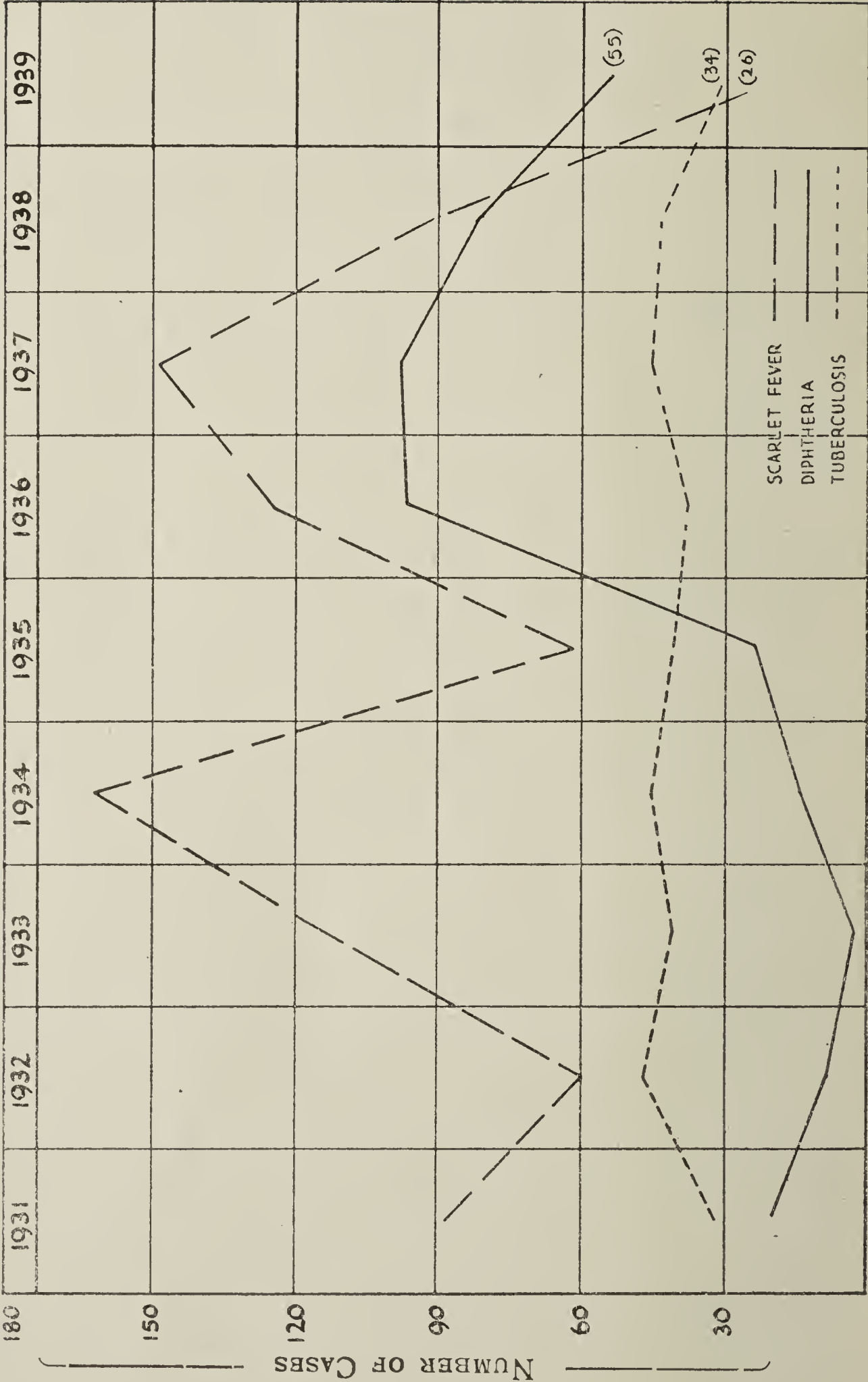
At the present time there are no local facilities available for the use of serum for Measles Prophylaxis or Attenuation, This also is a matter which, I have little doubt, could be given consideration should the necessity arise.

Tuberculosis.

There was no action necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

The graph on page 28 shews the incidence of Diphtheria, Scarlet Fever and Tuberculosis in the area for the nine years period 1931 - 1939.

Graph shewing incidence of Diphtheria, Scarlet Fever, and Tuberculosis in the
Whickham Area during the 9 years period 1931 - 1939.



Notifications of Infectious Diseases during 1939.

DISEASES	Total Cases notified	AGE GROUPS.												Cases admitted to hospital.	Total Deaths
		Under 1 year	1-2 years	2-3 years	3-4 years	4-5 years	5-10 years	10-15 years	15-20 years	20-35 years	35-45 years	45-65 years	65 and over		
Smallpox ...	—														
Scarlet Fever ...	26		3	1	3	2	9	6		2				24	
Diphtheria ...	55	3	3	2	5	3	20	5	8	4	2			50	
Enteric, including Paratyphoid ...	—											1			
Puerperal Fever ...	—														
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	5									5					
Chickenpox...	100	2	8	10	9	25	43		1	2					
Erysipelas ...	20							2	1	6	3	4	4		
Measles ...	94	12	20	9	8	25	19			1					
German Measles ...	3		2							1					
Pneumonia ...	35	3	1		1		2	3	3	10	1	9	2		
Acute Poliomyelitis...															
Encephalitis Leth'ica															
Ophthalmia Neon'um	3	3													
Cerebro Spinal Fever	—														
	341	23	37	22	26	55	93	16	13	31	6	13	6	74	

Notifications of Infectious Diseases during 1939.

Diseases.	Totals	MONTHS.												WARDS			
		Jan'y	Feb'y	March	April	May	June	July	Aug't	Sept.	Oct'er	Nov'r	Dec'r	Dunston	W'h'kam & Sunnyside	Swalwell	Mar. Hill
Smallpox ...	—																
Scarlet Fever ...	26	2	4	3	3	2	4	1	3	1	1		2	14	9	1	2
Diphtheria ...	55	11	9	8	7	3	4	2	2	3	3	1	2	38	10	5	2
Enteric (Paratyph'd)	—																
Puerperal Fever ...	—																
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	5						1		2			2		1	2		2
Pneumonia ...	35	6	4	4	5	4	2	1	4		3	1	1	22	5	3	5
Cerebro-spin. Fever	—																
Acute Poliomyelitis	—																
Encephalitis Leth'ca	—																
Erysipelas ...	19	4	1	1	2		2	1	1	3	4		1	15	2	2	1
Chicken-pox ...	100	11	13	40	21	9	6							85	2	9	4
Measles ...	94	2	2		2	2	1	3	6	11	7	1		47	40	6	1
German Measles ...	3						1	2						2	1		
Ophthalmia Neon'um	3		1			1		1						1	2		
	441	36	34	56	40	21	21	11	75	18	18	5	6	225	73	26	17

Tuberculosis.

New Cases and Mortality during 1939.

Age Periods	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory		Non-respiratory		Respiratory		Non-respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 yr.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 — 5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 — 15	1	1	4	3	—	1	—	1
15 — 25	4	4	1	2	—	2	—	—
25 — 35	1	1	1	1	—	—	1	—
35 — 45	4	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
45 — 55	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55 — 65	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 and over	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
	16	6	6	6	3	3	1	1

Sex	No. of cases of Tuberculosis on Register at commencement of year.		No. of cases of Tuberculosis on Register at end of year.	
	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
Male ...	79	93	83	91
Female ...	61	86	61	87
Total	140	179	144	178

Removals from Register.

Reasons.	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
Died	3	4	1	1
Diagnosis not confirmed	2	—	—	1
Removed from district ...	5	3	2	1
Recovered	—	—	3	1
	10	7	6	4

Cases notified during 1939.

	Total	Dunston	Whic'ham	Mar. Hill	Swalwell
Respiratory	22	14	4	—	4
Non-Respiratory ...	12	4	5	1	2
Total	34	18	9	1	6

